

FREDERICK COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Public Safety Training Center

5370 Public Safety Place

Frederick, MD 21704

MINUTES of April 25, 2017 Meeting

I. The meeting was called to order.

II. The following members were present: Tonya Amedon, Kavonte' Duckett, Lisa Clark, Francisco Alves, Adam Book, Annette Breiling, Marguerite Vacca-Kaye, Lee Whisner, Gene Stanton, Irene Packer-Halsey and Roger Sobkowiak. Liaison member Donna Kuzemchak was present.

III. Other persons present were FPD Chief Ed Hargis, Capt. Patrick Grossman, Lt. Tokarz, Ernie Marin, Mark Trager, Andy Billotti, Lacey Walker, Julia Becker, and Chris Isleib.

IV. An invitation was extended to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

V. The March 2017 HRC meeting minutes were reviewed. Lisa Clark moved to approve them, and Gene Stanton seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

VI. Members of the public were invited to make comments. Mark Trager spoke about the vital and important work that is being done at Heartly House. It provides comprehensive services for victims and survivors of intimate partner abuse, rape/sexual assault, and child abuse. Heartly House welcomes donations and actively seeks volunteers.

VII. Action Items: The Executive Committee reported that it had interviewed three current HRC members whose terms will end on June 30, and who are seeking reappointment. The Executive Committee had voted to recommend to the full HRC membership that those members be reappointed. The members are Annette Breiling, David Kaye and Lisa Clark. Marguerite Vacca-Kaye moved that the HRC recommend to the County Executive that those members be reappointed, and Tonya Amedon seconded that motion. Upon vote the motion passed.

The Executive Committee reported that it had interviewed Chris Isleib, who applied for appointment to the HRC. The Executive Committee had voted to recommend to the full HRC membership that she be appointed. Lisa Clark moved that the HRC recommend to the County Executive that Chris Isleib be appointed, and Tonya Amedon seconded that motion. Upon vote the motion passed.

VIII. Treasurer Lisa Clark reported that the HRC has \$3,786.84 in funds on hand.

IX. The CRC reported that plans have been finalized for a public forum on Friday, June 2 at the Bernard Brown Center. A light lunch will be available, and the program will include a panel

discussion on a number of human rights issues of general interest in the community, including what is going on with immigration and sanctuary jurisdictions. Panelists will include Alicia Barmon, Jane Weir and others from Safe Haven Frederick, who will speak about some of the work that organization has been doing.

The GRC reported that it is already working on ideas for the next Legislative Luncheon, which will be in December. They are considering what topics should be addressed and what speakers should be invited.

Irene Packer-Halsey said that people affected by immigration should be included in the forum on June 2, and since they all work during the day a better time and better venue should be picked. And that more work should be done with different community groups to get them to participate. Tonya Amedon said that discussions have already been held, and the time, date and location have been set. But this will hopefully be one of several HRC forums about human rights issues, and the points Irene raised will be addressed when those future forums are planned.

Annette Breiling said that the League of Women Voters is interested in conducting fact finding on the Sheriff's 287 (G) program. One of the things that they intend to look at is how many of the people ICE takes into custody and deports have committed violent crimes.

Kavonte' Duckett said that the HRC needs to focus on creating opportunities and reaching out to people in our community.

Annette Breiling said that Elizabeth Chung wants to show two short documentaries on immigration to her staff at the Asian American Center of Frederick.

Ernie Marin expressed his sincere thanks to the police in Frederick for assisting with a very serious problem recently. A young girl ran away with members of the MS-13 gang. Ernie said that the Frederick Police Department and the community came together quickly to work on this, and that as a result the girl was returned to her family within 24 hours.

Annette Breiling reminded everyone that the Student Peace Awards will be presented at the Friends Meeting School in Ijamsville on Saturday, May 6. There will be a peace conference and an awards ceremony. Since the HRC helps sponsor these awards, the organizers would like some HRC members to attend and participate.

HRC members were reminded of two upcoming events that the HRC has long supported and participated in. Frederick Pride and the Asbury Block Party will both take place in June, and members will be asked to volunteer.

The Asian American Heritage Month Festival will take place on May 6, from 11 am until 4 pm at Baker Park

Efforts are being made to look into scheduling an HRC night at a Frederick Keys baseball game.

Irene Packer-Halsey said that the HRC should do something about all of the dangerous drugs in the community. Tonya Amedon said this suggestion will be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

X. Liaison reports: Donna Kuzemchak noted that the City of Frederick will issue a proclamation honoring Human Rights Day at 3 pm on Wednesday, May 31, at City Hall. She encouraged HRC members to attend this event.

XI. Several members of Safe Haven Frederick spoke about some of the community outreach activities the group is working on. A pledge is being developed to take to restaurants and other businesses to address historical discrimination in the community. The pledge would be taken to local businesses, and they would be invited to sign it and post it to provide assurance that their premises will be free of discrimination and intolerance, and that everyone is welcome.

Safe Haven Frederick may decide to offer bias training to local restaurants and businesses, in order to increase awareness that people still experience comments and behavior in public places that make them feel uncomfortable.

It was mentioned that The Frederick Center is also working on a Pledge.

Chief Hargis said that he'd met with representatives of Safe Haven Frederick a few weeks ago and that they'd had a good discussion.

XII. Those attending who chose to do so made brief final comments.

XIII. The meeting was adjourned.